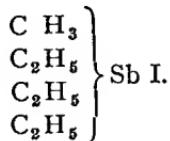


title, Dr. Julius Althaus, in referring to the dangers of the operation of nerve-stretching in locomotor ataxia, says: "It may, therefore, not be out of place to mention that at least five fatal cases have already been recorded—one by Socin, another by Langenbuch, who originated the operation; a third by Billroth and Weiss, a fourth by Berger, and a fifth by Benedict. In most of these cases the cause of death appears to have been undue violence used in stretching, whereby the medulla oblongata would appear to have received a shock. Thus, in Benedict's case, severe vomiting and isingultus, together with complete paralysis of the bowels and bladder, supervened after the operation; dyspncea and cyanosis eventually set in, and the patient died comatose on the ninth day.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*, Jan. 7, 1882, p. 11.

W. R. BIRDSALL, M.D.

f.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

ARTIFICIAL CURARE.—*Prog. Méd.*, March 4, 1882. M. Rabeteau has found a compound with physical, chemical, and physiological properties exactly like those of curare. The compound is called the iodide of méthyl triethyl stibonium, the formula of which is



Among the physiological effects are none attributable to the antimony in the compound.

NERVE-STRETCHING.—*Prog. Médical*, March 11, 25, and April 15, 1882. Review by Duret and Bonnaire.

Idiopathic sciatica.—Eleven cases treated; nine successful.

Symptomatic sciatica (diseases of the spinal cord).—Eight cases treated. In one, apparent cure; in five, marked alleviation of symptoms; and in two no change resulted.

Trigeminal neuralgia.—Different branches were stretched in twelve cases. Complete relief occurred in nine; partial in one; and no relief in two cases.

Intercostal neuralgia.—One case treated, with no relief.

Idiopathic neuralgias of different nerves.—Five operations (four on the brachial plexus), with two complete and three partial recoveries.

Traumatic peripheral neuralgias.—Eleven cases operated on, of which eight recovered completely, two partially, and one not at all improved.

Spasmodic facial tic.—Six cases ; all successful.

Torticollis.—Six cases ; two failures.

Contraction of extremities.—Three cases ; one failure ; two cases improved.

Epilepsy.—Three cases ; recovery in one ; amelioration in one, and failure in one.

Paralysis.—One case, in which recovery supervened.

Tetanus.—Twenty-one cases, with nine recoveries and twelve deaths.

Locomotor ataxia.—Ten cases ; one case relieved once, and on reappearance of pain was subjected to another operation and killed with chloroform ; one death from thrombosis of popliteal vein ; two complete failures ; and in six cases amelioration of the symptoms.

Lepra anaesthetica.—Three cases ; rupture of the nerve in one, but good results in all. (?)

The Lancet, Jan. 28, 1882. Mr. Davidson records three sciaticas cured and one relieved by nerve-stretching, while a facia spasm was improved by stretching the infra-orbital nerve.

Prog. Médical, April 15, 1882. M. Pamard stretched the optic nerves affected with an atrophy, probably specific. The patient suffered with almost complete loss of vision, violent orbital pains, and vertigo. The left optic nerve broke in stretching. The orbital neuralgia ceased, a less severe pain appeared in the occiput, and the vertigo stopped. The patient died with ill-defined symptoms, and no autopsy was allowed.

TRAUMATIC TETANUS CURED BY MORPHIA AND NITRITE OF AMYL.—*The Lancet*, March 25, 1882. Dr. Dunlop narrates a severe case of tetanus following a wound of the forehead which was not relieved by Calabar bean, but which yielded to moderate morphia narcotism and nitrite of amyl for the attacks.

TREATMENT OF WHOOPING-COUGH.—*The Practitioner*, March,

1882, from *Fahr. f. Kinderk.*, B. 16. O. Heubner, as a result of the experimental trial of many drugs, decides that salicylic acid and chloral relieve the paroxysm ; belladonna and quinine shorten the disease.

PILOCARPINE IN LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—*L'Encephale*, 25 June, 1881. Dr. Oscar Jennings, in three cases mentioned, found pilocarpine, given hypodermically in sufficient doses to cause free diaphoresis and ptyalism, promptly relieved attacks of pain and gastric crises.

THE ART OF VARYING THE EFFECTS OF HASHISH.—*L'Encephale*, 15 Sept., 1881. M. Jules Giraud, in an article on *cannabis Indica*, which is more or less of a psychological study, makes some statements of interest to the therapist. Speaking of the profound physiological effects of the drug, he says alcohol develops the narcotic effect of the drug and destroys the hallucinations by sleep ; coffee or tea causes the patient to reassert his personality, while opium tends to cause sleep, which *cannabis* sometimes fails to do.

THE USE OF ATROPINE AS A SEDATIVE.—*Four. Ment. Science*, April, 1882. J. R. Gasquet has used atropia as a substitute for hyoscymia in the treatment of three cases of chronic insanity which had before been treated by hyoscymia. The treatment lasted in two cases three months, and two months in the other. He concludes atropine is much the weaker sedative, as the patients are less subdued and helpless, and in a much more natural and healthy condition than when treated by hyoscymia. The effects of atropia are much more transient. Very often the pupils are not dilated, but generally the throat is very dry before the sedative dose is reached. He commences with .0012 by the mouth two or three times a day, and in one case gave .006 twice a day.

SECTION OF THE SPINAL ACCESSORY NERVE FOR WRY NECK.—*Prog. Médical*, Feb. 4, 1882. M. Tillaux cut the spinal accessory in a case of torticollis supposed to be due to spasm of the sternal fasciculus of the sterno-mastoid muscle, and in which section of the same fasciculus afforded no relief. The operation was followed by no disturbances of phonation and by a partial relief of the torticollis, inasmuch as after section the patient could

by a voluntary effort overcome the spasm, a thing before impossible. M. Tillaux refused to stretch the nerve for fear of injuring the medulla.

TREATMENT OF WRITER'S CRAMP.—*Prog. Méd.*, April 1, 1882 (Review). Dr. Aug. Schott's treatment consists of gymnastics and massage. Passive movements of the fingers, hand, and forearm in all directions; similar active movements resisted by the manipulator, and pretty active rubbing and massage of both muscles and nerves affected.

Paris Médical, Dec. 10, 1882 (*Med. and Surg. Rep.*, Feb. 18, 1882). Dr. Vigouroux reports a case cured by punctated cauterization of the extensor region of the forearm in seven sittings.

CURARE IN HYDROPHOBIA.—*Berl. klin. Woch.*, Jan. 23, 1882 (*N. Y. Med. Rec.*, April 15, 1882). Penzoldt gave a boy of eleven, with hydrophobia, 0.435 grms. of curare in twenty-six hours. The drug was given hypodermically, and its potency was shown by the fact that 0.02 of the same preparation quickly killed a dog of 6.5 kilos. The onset of paresis of the respiratory muscles caused the medication to be suspended and death supervened, no curative power having been manifested by the drug.

A SIMPLE GALVANIC ELEMENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION.—The *Med. and Surg. Reporter*, Feb. 25, 1882. Dr. R. D. Blackwood recommends a silver spatula held in the mouth and a zinc suppository inserted into the rectum, connected by a flexible conductor, as a remedy in constipation. He asserts the current strength developed when so used is equal to two millivebers, and is such that if properly applied about the closed eye it will cause a visible flash. Muscular contractions invade the whole intestinal tract, and in from five to fifteen minutes, in many cases, natural defecation takes place.

R. W. AMIDON, M.D.
